

Members of Delegation

Guy Nzouba-Ndama
President of National Assembly

Paulette Koho
Secretary, PDG

Philippe Nzengue Mayila
*President of Commission on
Foreign Affairs, National Defense
PDG*

Alain-Claude Bilié By-Ze
Deputy, RPG

Claudio Ndembí Nzanga
Deputy, UPG

Benjamin Ngadi
Director of Cabinet

Captain Emery L. Mickso
Mailly
Aide-de-Camp

Jean Pierre Lindeme
Counselor

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATION

REPUBLIC OF GABON

Hon. Guy Nzouba-Ndama
President of National Assembly

Visit to the U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC

March 17-18, 2010

2011 MAY 25 AM10:12



LEADERSHIP COUNSEL, LLC
Strategic Solutions for Today's Leaders

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President

Hon. Victor O. Frazer, Esq.
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National Assembly Delegation from the Republic of Gabon

Hon. Guy Nzouba-Ndama
President of the National Assembly

Visit to the United States Capitol
Washington, DC
March 17-18, 2010

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Hon. Guy Nzouba-Ndama
President of the National Assembly
Members of National Assembly
Republic of Gabon
Visiting Washington, DC
March 17-18, 2010

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

10:00 am Arrive at U.S. Capitol and Guided Tour of Capitol Visitors Center

Meeting with Hon. Lorraine Miller, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol H-154
Contact: Tonya Spratt Williams: 225-7000

Courtesy Visit with Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives**
U.S. Capitol
Contact: Wendy Parker: 225-0100

12:00 pm Luncheon in the U.S. Capitol, Members Dining Room

2:30 pm Meeting with Hon. Alcee Hastings, U.S. House of Representatives
H-312 U.S Capitol
Contact Lale Mamaux: 225-1313

4:00 pm Meeting with Hon. Johnny Isakson, United States Senate (Foreign Relations)
120 Russell SOB
Contact: Stefanie Higgins: 224-3643

5:00 pm U.S. Supreme Court
Washington, DC Monument Views

Evening Free

Contact:

Adonis Hoffman or Victor Frazer
866-546-2729 - office
703-627-0400 - cell

Hon. Guy Nzouba-Ndama
President of the National Assembly
Members of National Assembly
Republic of Gabon
Visiting Washington, DC
March 17-18, 2010

Thursday, March 18, 2010

10:00 am Meeting with Hon. John Tanner, U.S. House of Representatives (Foreign Affairs)
1226 Longworth HOB
Contact: Kathy Becker: 225-4714

11:00 am Meeting with Hon. James Clyburn, Majority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives
H-329 U.S. Capitol
Contact: Jennie Chaplin: 226-3210

12:00 noon Meeting with Hon. Christopher Smith, U.S. House of Representatives (Foreign Affairs)
2373 Rayburn HOB
Contact: Kacy Wandel: 225-3765

1:00 pm Meeting with Hon. Dan Burton, U.S. House of Representatives (Foreign Affairs)
2308 Rayburn HOB
Contact: Donna Jones: 225-2276

2:00 pm Meeting with Hon. Bobby Rush, U.S. House of Representatives
2416 Rayburn HOB
Contact: Lennette Myers: 225-4372

4:00 pm Meeting with Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton, U.S. House of Representatives
2136 Rayburn HOB
Contact: Raven Reeder: 225-8050

4:30 pm Meeting with Senate Foreign Relations Committee Staff | Mr. Peter Quaranto
on behalf of Hon. Russell Feingold, United States Senate ,
506 Hart SOB
Contact: Peter Quaranto: 224-5323

5:00 pm Meeting with Hon. John Lewis, Deputy Majority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives
H-330 U.S. Capitol
Contact: Jacob Gillison: 225-3801

6:00 pm Meeting with Hon. Yvette Clarke, U.S. House of Representatives
1029 Longworth HOB
Contact: Jeremy Alexander: 225-6231

8:00 pm Dinner with Hon. Victor Frazer, Adonis Hoffman, Roger Engone and invited guests

The Honorable Guy Nzouba-Ndama

President of the National Assembly
Republic of Gabon



The Honorable Guy Nzouba-Ndama has been President of the National Assembly of Gabon since January 1997. From 1987 to 1990, he served as Minister of National Education and was President of the Parliamentary Group of the Gabonese Democratic Party (PDG) from 1990 to 1996.

Mr. Nzouba-Ndama began teaching philosophy in 1975, and he was appointed as Director of Orientation at the Directorate-General of Scholarships and Internships while continuing to teach. In 1980, he became Director-General of Scholarships and Internships, remaining in that post until 1983.

Mr. Nzouba-Ndama was first appointed to the government as Minister-Delegate under the Minister of State for Trade and Industry in March 1983. He was then appointed as Minister-Delegate under the Fourth Deputy Prime Minister for the Land-Survey Register, Housing and Lodgings in January 1986, before being promoted to the position of Minister of National Education in 1987.

In the midst of a strike involving teachers in 1990, President Omar Bongo dismissed Nzouba-Ndama from his post as Minister of National Education, but subsequently appointed him as a Presidential Political Adviser. In the 1990 parliamentary election, Nzouba-Ndama was elected to the National Assembly as a candidate in Koulamoutou, and he served as President of the PDG Parliamentary Group from 1990 to 1996.

Mr. Nzouba-Ndama was re-elected to the National Assembly in the December 1996 parliamentary election, and was elected President of the National Assembly on 27 January 1997. He retained his parliamentary seat in the December 2001 parliamentary election and was re-elected as President of the National Assembly on 25 January 2002. He received 111 votes, with one deputy voting against him and seven abstaining. He was again re-elected as a Deputy in the December 2006 parliamentary election, and he was re-elected for a third term as President of the National Assembly on 24 January 2007, receiving 111 votes from the 120 deputies.

Mr. Nzouba-Ndama praised the deputies of the preceding legislature for producing legislation that he said benefited the people, and he thanked President Bongo for retaining confidence in his leadership of the National Assembly. He also discussed his hope that roads across the country would be paved, saying that the National Assembly could use its legislative power to direct the government towards that goal.

Nzouba-Ndama was a member of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union from 1999 to 2003. Subsequently he was President of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie. Mr. Nzouba-Ndama is a Vice-President of the PDG. He was President of the Preparatory Committee for the PDG's Ninth Congress, which was held on 19–21 September 2007; he was also chosen by President Bongo to lead the work of the congress.

Following President Omar Bongo's death in June 2009, his son Ali Bongo won the August 2009 presidential election. When Ali Bongo was sworn in as President on 16 October 2009, Nzouba-Ndama said that he faced a "Herculean" task: he would face pressure to carry out reforms, but would also be expected to do so in a moderate fashion while preserving the political balance crafted by his father.

Nzouba-Ndama represented Gabon at the fourth ministerial meeting of the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation, which opened on 8 November 2009. He continues to travel throughout Africa and the world to promote the continuation of friendly and cooperative relationships on behalf of the Republic of Gabon.

Mr. Nzouba-Ndama will be in the United States on a private visit and will pay a courtesy visit to several Members of Congress, March 17–18, 2010.

Members of the Delegation

National Assembly of Gabon

1. Honorable Guy Nzouba Ndama, President of the National Assembly, Republic of Gabon
2. Mrs. Paulette Koho, Secretary of the PDG Party
3. Mr. Phillippe Nzengue Mayila, President of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, National Defense, PDG Party
4. Mr. Alain-Claude Bilie By-ZE, Deputy of the RPG Party
5. Mr. Claudio Ndembu Nzinga, Deputy of the UPG Party
6. Mr. Benjamin Ngadi, Director of the Cabinet
7. Captain Emery Leandre Mickso Mailly, Aide-de-Camp
8. Mr. Jean Pierre Lindeme, Counselor

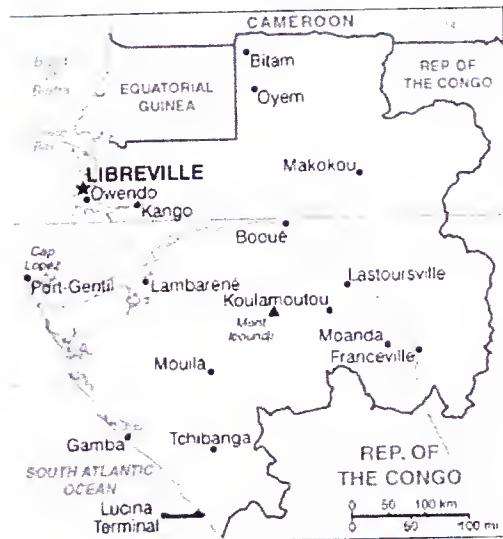
GABON

OFFICIAL NAME: Gahonese Republic



Geography

Area: 267,667 sq. km. (103,347 sq. mi.); about the size of Colorado.
Cities: *Capital*--Libreville (pop. 673,995). *Other cities*--Port-Gentil (118,940), Franceville.
Terrain: Narrow coastal plain; hilly, heavily forested interior (about 80% forested); some savanna regions in east and south.
Climate: Hot and humid all year with two rainy and two dry seasons.



People

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*--Gabonese (sing. and pl.).
Population (June 12, 2009 est.): 1,514,993.
Annual growth rate (2009 est.): 1.934%.
Ethnic groups: Fang (largest), Myene, Bapounou, Eshira, Bandjabi, Bakota, Nzebi, Bateke/Obamba.
Religions: Christian (55%-75%), Muslim (10%), animist less than 1%.
Languages: French (official), Fang, Myene, Bateke, Bapounou/Eshira, Bandjabi.
Education: *Years compulsory*--to age 16. *Attendance*--60%. *Literacy*--63%.
Health: *Infant mortality rate*--91/1,000. *Life expectancy*--56.2 yrs.
Work force (600,000 est.): *Agriculture*--52%; *industry and commerce*--16%; *services and government*--33%.

Government

Type: Republic.
Independence: August 17, 1960.
Constitution: February 21, 1961 (revised April 15, 1975; rewritten March 26, 1991; revised July 29, 2003).
Branches: *Executive*--president (head of state); prime minister (head of government) and appointed Council of Ministers. *Legislative*--bicameral legislature (National Assembly and Senate). *Judicial*--Supreme Court.
Administrative subdivisions: 9 provinces, 36 prefectures, and 8 sub prefectures.
Political parties: *Parti Democratique Gabonais* (PDG) holds the largest number of seats in the National Assembly; there are several others.
Suffrage: Universal, direct.
Central government budget (2008 est.): *Receipts*--\$4.5 billion; *expenses*--\$2.7 billion; *defense* (2005)--3.4% of government budget.

Economy

Real GDP (2008 est.): \$22.16 billion.
Annual real growth rate (2008 est.): 4.5%.
Per capita income (2008 est.): \$14,900.
Avg. inflation rate (2008 est.): 5%.
Natural resources: Petroleum, timber, manganese, uranium.
Agriculture and forestry (6% of GDP): *Products*--manioc, rubber, sugar, and pineapples. Cultivated land--1%.
Industry (59% of GDP): *Types*--petroleum related, wood processing, food and beverage processing.
Services (36% of GDP).
Trade (2007): \$8.499 billion. *Exports*--61% of GDP (f.o.b.): petroleum, wood, manganese. *Major markets*--U.S. 32.5%, China 15.8%, France 9.4%, EU, Asia. *Imports*--30% of GDP (f.o.b.): construction equipment, machinery, food, automobiles, manufactured goods. *Major suppliers*--France 27.7%, U.S. 19.1%, Belgium 5.4%, Netherlands 4.7%. Current account balance with U.S. (2007 est.)--\$1.689 billion.

PEOPLE

Almost all Gabonese are of Bantu origin. Gabon has at least 40 ethnic groups, with separate languages and cultures. The largest is the Fang (about 30%). Other ethnic groups include the Myene, Bandjabi, Eshira, Bapounou, Bateke/Obamba, Nzebi, and Bakota. Ethnic group boundaries are less sharply drawn in Gabon than elsewhere in Africa. French, the official language, is a unifying force. More than 12,000 French people live in Gabon, including an estimated 2,000 dual nationals, and France dominates foreign cultural and commercial influences. Historical and environmental factors caused Gabon's population to decline between 1900 and 1940. It is one of the least densely inhabited countries in Africa, and a labor shortage is a major obstacle to development and a draw for foreign workers. The population is estimated at about 1,514,993.

HISTORY

During the last seven centuries, Bantu ethnic groups arrived in the area from several directions to escape enemies or find new land. Little is known of tribal life before European contact, but tribal art suggests rich cultural heritages. Gabon's first European visitors were Portuguese traders who arrived in the 15th century and named the country after the Portuguese word "gabao," a coat with sleeve and hood resembling the shape of the Komo River estuary. The coast became a center of the slave trade. Dutch, British, and French traders came in the 16th century. France assumed the status of protector by signing treaties with Gabonese coastal chiefs in 1839 and

1841. American missionaries from New England established a mission at Baraka (now Libreville) in 1842. In 1849, the French captured a slave ship and released the passengers at the mouth of the Komo River. The slaves named their settlement Libreville--"free town." An American, Paul du Chaillu, was among the first foreigners to explore the interior of the country in the 1850s. French explorers penetrated Gabon's dense jungles between 1862 and 1887. The most famous, Savorgnan de Brazza, used Gabonese bearers and guides in his search for the headwaters of the Congo River. France occupied Gabon in 1885 but did not administer it until 1903. In 1910, Gabon became one of the four territories of French Equatorial Africa, a federation that survived until 1959. The territories became independent in 1960 as the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), and Gabon.

At the time of Gabon's independence in 1960, two principal political parties existed: the *Bloc Democratique Gabonais* (BDG), led by Leon M'Ba, and the *Union Democratique et Sociale Gabonaise* (UDSG), led by J.H. Aubame. In the first post-independence election, held under a parliamentary system, neither party was able to win a majority. The BDG obtained support from three of the four independent legislative deputies, and M'Ba was named Prime Minister. Soon after concluding that Gabon had an insufficient number of people for a two-party system, the two party leaders agreed on a single list of candidates. In the February 1961 election, held under the new presidential system, M'Ba became President and Aubame became Foreign Minister.

This one-party system appeared to work until February 1963, when the larger BDG element forced the UDSG members to choose between a merger of the parties or resignation. The UDSG cabinet ministers resigned, and M'Ba called an election for February 1964 and a reduced number of National Assembly deputies (from 67 to 47). The UDSG failed to muster a list of candidates able to meet the requirements of the electoral decrees. When the BDG appeared likely to win the election by default, the Gabonese military toppled M'Ba in a bloodless coup on February 18, 1964. French troops re-established his government the next day. Elections were held in April 1964 with many opposition participants. BDG-supported candidates won 31 seats and the opposition 16. Late in 1966, the constitution was revised to provide for automatic succession of the vice president should the president die in office. In March 1967, Leon M'Ba and Omar Bongo (then Albert Bongo) were elected President and Vice President. M'Ba died later that year, and Omar Bongo became President.

In March 1968, Bongo declared Gabon a one-party state by dissolving the BDG and establishing a new party--the *Parti Democratique Gabonais* (PDG). He invited all Gabonese, regardless of previous political affiliation, to participate. Bongo was elected President in February 1975; in April 1975, the position of vice president was abolished and replaced by the position of prime minister, who had no right to automatic succession. Bongo was re-elected President in December 1979 and November 1986 to 7-year terms. Bongo sought to forge a single national movement in support of the government's development policies, using the PDG as a tool to submerge the regional and tribal rivalries that divided Gabonese politics in the past.

Economic discontent and a desire for political liberalization provoked violent demonstrations and strikes by students and workers in early 1990. In response to grievances by workers, Bongo negotiated with them on a sector-by-sector basis, making significant wage concessions. In addition, he promised to open up the PDG and to organize a national political conference in March-April 1990 to discuss Gabon's future political system. The PDG and 74 political organizations attended the conference. Participants essentially divided into two loose coalitions, the ruling PDG and its allies, and the United Front of Opposition Associations and Parties, consisting of the breakaway Morena Fundamental and the Gabonese Progress Party.

The April 1990 conference approved sweeping political reforms, including creation of a national Senate, decentralization of the budgetary process, freedom of assembly and press, and cancellation of the exit visa requirement. In an attempt to guide the political system's transformation to multiparty democracy, Bongo resigned as PDG chairman and created a transitional government headed by a new Prime Minister, Casimir Oye-Mba. The Gabonese Social Democratic Grouping (RSDG), as the resulting government was called, was smaller than the previous government and included representatives from several opposition parties in its cabinet. The RSDG drafted a provisional constitution in May 1990 that provided a basic bill of rights and an independent judiciary but retained strong executive powers for the president. After further review by a constitutional committee and the National Assembly, this document came into force in March 1991. Under the 1991 constitution, in the event of the president's death, the prime minister, the National Assembly president, and the defense minister were to share power until a new election could be held.

Opposition to the PDG continued, however, and in September 1990, two coup d'etat attempts were uncovered and aborted. Despite anti-government demonstrations after the untimely death of an opposition leader, the first multiparty National Assembly elections in almost 30 years took place in September-October 1990, with the PDG garnering a large majority.

Following President Omar Bongo's re-election in December 1993 with 51% of the vote, opposition candidates refused to validate the election results. Serious civil disturbances led to an agreement between the government and opposition factions to work toward a political settlement. These talks led to the Paris Accords in November 1994, under which several opposition figures were included in a government of national unity. This arrangement soon broke down, however, and the 1996 and 1997 legislative and municipal elections provided the background for renewed partisan politics. The PDG won a landslide victory in the legislative election, but several major cities, including Libreville, elected opposition mayors during the 1997 local election.

Facing a divided opposition, President Omar Bongo coasted to easy re-election in December 1998, with large majorities of the vote. While Bongo's major opponents rejected the outcome as fraudulent, some international observers characterized the results as representative despite any perceived irregularities, and there were none of the civil disturbances that followed the 1993 election. Peaceful though flawed legislative elections held in 2001-02, which were boycotted by a number of smaller opposition parties and were widely criticized for their administrative weaknesses, produced a National Assembly almost completely dominated by the PDG and allied independents. In November 2005, President Omar Bongo was elected for his sixth term. He won re-election easily, but opponents claim that the balloting process was marred by irregularities. There were some instances of violence following the announcement of Omar Bongo's win, but Gabon generally remained peaceful.

National Assembly elections were held again in December 2006. Several seats contested because of voting irregularities were

overturned by the Constitutional Court, but the subsequent run-off elections in early 2007 again yielded a PDG-controlled National Assembly.

On June 8, 2009, President Omar Bongo died of cardiac arrest at a Spanish hospital in Barcelona, ushering in a new era in Gabonese politics. In accordance with the constitution, Rose Francine Rogombe, the President of the Senate, became Interim President on June 10, 2009. The first contested elections to not include Omar Bongo as a candidate were held on August 30, 2009. Omar Bongo's son, Ali Bongo Ondimba, was formally declared the winner after a 3-week review by the constitutional court. The inauguration of President Bongo took place on October 16, 2009.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Under the 1961 constitution (revised in 1975, rewritten in 1991, and revised in 2003), Gabon is a republic with a presidential form of government. The National Assembly has 120 deputies elected for a 5-year term. The president is elected by universal suffrage for a 7-year term. The president can appoint and dismiss the prime minister, the cabinet, and judges of the independent Supreme Court. The president also has other strong powers, such as authority to dissolve the National Assembly, declare a state of siege, delay legislation, and conduct referenda. A 2003 constitutional amendment removed presidential term limits and facilitated a presidency for life.

In 1990, the government made major changes to Gabon's political system. A transitional constitution was drafted in May 1990 as an outgrowth of the national political conference in March-April and later revised by a constitutional committee. Among its provisions were a Western-style bill of rights, creation of a National Council of Democracy to oversee the guarantee of those rights, a governmental advisory board on economic and social issues, and an independent judiciary. After approval by the National Assembly, the PDG Central Committee, and the President, the Assembly unanimously adopted the constitution in March 1991. Multiparty legislative elections were held in 1990-91, despite the fact that opposition parties had not been declared formally legal.

The elections produced the first representative, multiparty National Assembly. In January 1991, the Assembly passed by unanimous vote a law governing the legalization of opposition parties. After President Omar Bongo was re-elected in a disputed election in 1993 with 51% of votes cast, social and political disturbances led to the 1994 Paris Conference and Accords, which provided a framework for the next elections. Local and legislative elections were delayed until 1996-97. In 1997, constitutional amendments were adopted to create an appointed Senate and the position of vice president, and to extend the president's term to 7 years.

In October 2009, President Ali Bongo began streamlining the government, eliminating 17 minister-level positions. He also abolished the vice president position and reorganized the portfolios of numerous ministries, bureaus, and directorates with the intention of reducing on corruption and government bloat. In November 2009, President Bongo announced a new vision for the modernization of Gabon, called "Gabon Emergent." This program contains three pillars: Green Gabon, Service Gabon, and Industrial Gabon. The goals of Gabon Emergent are to diversify the economy so that Gabon is less reliant on petroleum, eliminate corruption, and modernize the workforce.

For administrative purposes, Gabon is divided into 9 provinces, which are further divided into 36 prefectures and 8 separate sub prefectures. The president appoints the provincial governors, the prefects, and the sub prefects.

Principal Government Officials

President of the Republic--Ali Bongo Ondimba
Prime Minister, Head of Government--Paul Biyoghe Mba
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation--Paul Toungui
Minister of Defense--Angelique Ngoma
Minister of the Economy--Magloire Ngambia
Minister of the Budget--Blaise Louembe
Minister of the Interior--Jean Francois Ndoungou
Ambassador to the United States--Carlos Boungou
Ambassador to the United Nations--Emmanuel Issoze-Ngondet

Gabon maintains an embassy in the United States at 2034 20th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 (tel. 202-797-1000).

ECONOMY

Gabon's economy is dominated by oil. Oil revenues comprise 65% of the Government of Gabon budget, 43% of gross domestic product (GDP), and 81% of exports. Oil production is now declining rapidly from its high point of 370,000 barrels per day in 1997. In spite of the decreasing oil revenues, little planning has been done for an after-oil scenario. Gabon public expenditures from the years of significant oil revenues were not spent efficiently. Overspending on the Transgabonais railroad, the oil price shock of 1986, the CFA franc devaluation of 1994, and low oil prices in the late 1990s caused serious debt problems. Gabon has earned a poor reputation with the Paris Club and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the management of its debt and revenues. Successive IMF missions have criticized the government for overspending on off-budget items (in good years and bad), over-borrowing from the Central Bank, and slipping on the schedule for privatization and administrative reform. In September 2005, Gabon successfully concluded a 15-month Stand-By Arrangement with the IMF. A three-year Stand-By Arrangement was approved in May 2007.

Gabon's oil revenues have given it a strong per capita GDP of \$14,900, extremely high for the region. On the other hand, a skewed income distribution and poor social indicators are evident. The richest 20% of the population receives over 90% of the income, and about a third of Gabonese live in poverty. The economy is highly dependent on extraction of abundant primary materials. After oil, logging and manganese mining are the other major sectors. Foreign and Gabonese observers have consistently lamented the lack of transformation of primary materials in the Gabonese economy. Various factors have so far stymied more diversification--a small market of about 1 million people, dependence on French imports, inability to capitalize on regional markets, lack of entrepreneurial zeal among the Gabonese, and the fairly regular stream of oil "rent". The small processing and service sectors are largely dominated

by just a few prominent local investors. At World Bank and IMF insistence, the government embarked on a program of privatization of its state-owned companies and administrative reform, including reducing public sector employment and salary growth, but progress has been slow.

DEFENSE

Gabon has a small, professional military of about 8,000 personnel, divided into army, navy, air force, gendarmerie, and national police. Gabonese forces are oriented to the defense of the country and have not been trained for an offensive role. A well-trained, well-equipped 1,500-member guard provides security for the president.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Gabon has followed a nonaligned policy, advocating dialogue in international affairs and recognizing both parts of divided countries. Since 1973, the number of countries establishing diplomatic relations with Gabon has doubled. In inter-African affairs, Gabon espouses development by evolution rather than revolution and favors regulated free enterprise as the system most likely to promote rapid economic growth. Gabon has played a leadership role in the stability of Central Africa through involvement in mediation efforts in Chad, the Central African Republic, Angola, Congo/Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Burundi. In December 1999, through the mediation efforts of President Bongo, a peace accord was signed in Congo/Brazzaville between the government and most leaders of an armed rebellion. President Bongo was also involved in the continuing Congolese peace process, and played a role in mediating the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. Gabon has been a strong proponent of regional stability, and Gabonese armed forces played an important role in the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) mission to the Central African Republic.

Gabon is a member of the UN and some of its specialized and related agencies, as well as of the World Bank; the African Union (AU); the Central African Customs Union/Central African Economic and Monetary Community (UDEAC/CEMAC); EU/ACP association under the Lomé Convention; the *Communauté Financière Africaine* (CFA); the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC); the Nonaligned Movement; and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS/CEEAC). Gabon withdrew from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 1995. Gabon was elected to a non-permanent seat in UN Security Council for the 2010-2011 term, and holds the rotating presidency for March 2010.

U.S.-GABONESE RELATIONS

Relations between the United States and Gabon are excellent. In 1987, President Bongo made an official visit to Washington, DC. In September 2002, Secretary of State Colin Powell made a brief but historic visit to Gabon to highlight environmental protection and conservation in the Central Africa region. This was followed by a visit to the White House by President Bongo in May 2004. The United States imports a considerable percentage of Gabonese crude oil and manganese and exports heavy construction equipment, aircraft, and machinery to Gabon. Through a modest International Military Education and Training program, the United States provides military training to members of the Gabonese armed forces each year. In May 2009, the USS Nashville conducted a mission to help train Gabonese naval officers in maritime security, with a robust bilateral training schedule planned for 2010. Other bilateral assistance includes the funding of small grants for qualified democracy and human rights, self-help, and cultural preservation projects. U.S. private capital has been attracted to Gabon since before its independence.

Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador--[Eunice Reddick](#)

Deputy Chief of Mission--Kathleen FitzGibbon

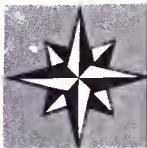
Management Officer--Judith Johnson

Public Affairs/Economic/Commercial Officer--Dolores Canavan

Political Officer--Christopher Gunning

Defense Attaché--Jack Aalborg

Consular Officer--Grace Genuino



March 15, 2010

Hon. Guy Nzouba-Ndama
President of the National Assembly
Republic of Gabon
Visit to Washington, DC
March 17-18, 2010

Preliminary Agenda*

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

10:00 am	Arrive at U.S. Capitol and VIP Tour of Capitol Visitors Center
11:00 am	Meeting with Hon. Lorraine Miller, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives
11:30 am	Meeting with Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
1:00 pm	Luncheon in the U.S. Capitol, Members-only Dining Room
2:30 pm	Meeting with Hon. Alcee Hastings, U.S. House of Representatives
4:00 pm	Meeting with Hon. Johnny Isakson, United States Senate

Thursday, March 18, 2010

10:00 am	Meeting with Hon. John Tanner, U.S. House of Representatives
11:00 am	Meeting with John Clyburn, H-329
12:00 noon	Meeting with Hon. Christopher Smith, U.S. House of Representatives
1:00 pm	Meeting with Hon. Dan Burton, U.S. House of Representatives
2:00 pm	Meeting with Hon. Bobby Rush, U.S. House of Representatives
4:00 pm	Meeting with Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton, U.S. House of Representatives
4:30 pm	Meeting with Mr. Peter Quaranto on behalf of Hon. Russell Feingold, United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee
6:00 pm	Meeting with Hon. Yvette Clark, U.S. House of Representatives
8:00 pm	Dinner with Hon. Victor Frazer, Adonis Hoffman and invited guests

* Meetings are confirmed for Hon. Nzouba-Ndama. Other members of the delegation may attend some, but not all of the meetings scheduled, and this will be confirmed prior to the meetings.



March 10, 2010

Hon. Guy Nzouba-Ndama
President of the National Assembly
Republic of Gabon
Visit to Washington, DC
March 17-18, 2010

Preliminary Agenda*

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

10:00 am	Arrive at U.S. Capitol
10:15 am	Begin VIP tour of Capitol Visitors Center
11:00 am	Reception and meeting with Hon. Lorraine Miller, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives
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4:30 pm	Meeting with Mr. Peter Quaranto on behalf of Hon. Russell Feingold, United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee
6:00 pm	Meeting with Hon. Yvette Clark, U.S. House of Representatives

* Meetings are confirmed for Hon. Nzouba-Ndama. Other members of the delegation may attend some, but not all of the meetings scheduled, and this will be confirmed prior to the meetings.